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Chapter 8

ADDITIONAL PAPER

OCT 1970

~~Facts and Speculations on ESP and the SIGINT Threat~~
~~The success of ESP research in NSA and the PK Effect~~

LT COL [] was a man of much experience in the SIGINT community. When I started my research into the field of Parapsychology he was one of the first people I questioned about Agency interest in the subject.

He told me that, as far as he knew, he himself was one of the first to advocate looking into the subject. His interest was aroused because of a personal experience which had occurred many years ago. COL [] and an Agency colleague were on a TDY trip at the time and were sharing a room for the night. It had been a busy day and they were still engaged in an animated discussion at a late hour. COL [] was giving his roommate a seven digit numerical sequence as an example, when the roommate suddenly exclaimed that it was a precise number he was just then thinking about, a phone number he had to call. The roommate being a man of mathematical background was impressed with the odds that such a coincidence it should be due to chance alone.*

COL [] was still thinking about the incident when he returned to the Agency. He felt strongly enough about the implications of the question to pay a visit to Mr. William Friedman. When he related the incident to Mr. Friedman, he closed with a recommendation that the Agency look into research on Extrasensory Perception (ESP) and its relevance to the SIGINT community.

*Of course subliminal clues could not be ruled out in such a case. In such instances

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Not knowing what Mr. Friedman's reaction to his suggestion had been, COL [] was pleasantly surprised when he chanced upon Mr. Friedman in the halls and was invited into his offices.

Mr. Friedman happily displayed to COL [] a list he had composed of recommend research subjects for the Agency. There among them was ESP.

Since these early days, research has slowly progressed into the possible relationships between Parapsychology and the Intelligence community. Experiments have been designed to test the effects of the Telepathic* and Clairvoyant* phenomena on the cryptosecurity of the U.S. codes and ciphers; Intelligence community information is periodically scanned for developments in Free World or SINO/SOVIET Bloc research which might constitute an increased threat to our Communications Security. The search for Agency Psychic talent is actively, if informally pursued whenever possible. One of the difficulties involved in testing for ESP within a laboratory environment is that the laboratory can rarely duplicate the extreme, and often tragic stimulus found in spontaneous cases. Lacking such strong motivation, ESP rarely provides spectacularly positive results in the laboratory.

One apparent exception to this frustrating parapsychological testing situation occurs when the so called "Poltergeist" phenomena is under study. This appears to be the case because the phenomena is apparently a psychopathological condition, somewhat like ulcers and seems to be caused by

Poltergeist (PK): The ability of the mind to influence matter usually by motion.

*Telepathy: Mind to mind communication.

*Clairvoyance: Awareness of a physical object beyond normal sensory range.

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temporary or long term emotional stress. When the person has stored up enough to cause objects to move around a room the stored up energy seems to take some time to dissipate; this storage condition occasionally permits the scientist to get the subject into a laboratory or into a reasonably controlled situation, in which he can subject the strange effects and their perpetrator to careful study.

Having finished with this underhanded introduction to the subject, I would like to consider two excellent questions: .